



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

Item 18/31

MEETING	Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority
DATE OF MEETING	6 June 2018
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	Charter for Families Bereaved through Public Tragedy
STATUS OF REPORT	For open publication
PURPOSE OF REPORT	For Approval
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>Following the Manchester bombings last year, the Kerslake Arena Review was set up at the request of Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester. On the 12 January 2018, a progress report on the work of the independent panel was published. A recommendation was made in this report that the leaders of public bodies in Greater Manchester and the rest of the North West, supported the proposal contained in the Hillsborough report by signing up to a 'Charter for Families Bereaved through Public Tragedy'. At a recent meeting of the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) the Chief Fire Officer suggested that the NFCC and Fire and Rescue Authorities signed up to this charter.</p>
RISK ASSESSMENT	None for the purposes of this report.
COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT	Signing up to the Charter for Families Bereaved through Public Tragedy will provide additional assurance to our communities should an event happen within the Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service area.
BUDGET IMPLICATIONS	None for the purposes of this report.
RECOMMENDATIONS	Members are asked to agree that the Authority sign up to the Charter for Families Bereaved through Public Tragedy included in Appendix A of this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS	Kerslake Arena Review - Progress report on the work of the independent panel – 12th January 2018 https://www.kerslakearenareview.co.uk/media/1020/kerslake-arena-review-progress-report.pdf
APPENDICES	Appendix A - Charter for Families Bereaved through Public Tragedy
REPORT ORIGINATOR AND CONTACT	Name: Ben Ansell, Chief Fire Officer, Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Email: ben.ansell@dwfire.org.uk Telephone No: 01722 691075



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

Charter for Families Bereaved through Public Tragedy

In adopting this charter, we commit to ensuring that Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority learn the lessons of the Hillsborough disaster and its aftermath, so that the perspective of the bereaved families is not lost.

We commit to Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority becoming an organisation which strives to:

1. in the event of a public tragedy, activate its emergency plan and deploy its resources to rescue victims, to support the bereaved and to protect the vulnerable
2. place the public interest above our own reputation
3. approach forms of public scrutiny - including public inquiries and inquests - with candour, in an open, honest and transparent way, making full disclosure of relevant documents, materials and facts. Our objective is to assist the search for the truth. We accept that we should learn from the findings of external scrutiny and from past mistakes
4. avoid seeking to defend the indefensible or to dismiss or disparage those who may have suffered where we have fallen short
5. ensure all members of staff treat members of the public and each other with mutual respect and with courtesy. Where we fall short, we should apologise straightforwardly and genuinely
6. recognise that we are accountable and open to challenge. We will ensure that processes are in place to allow the public to hold us to account for the work we do and for the way in which we do it. We do not knowingly mislead the public or the media.

Chair of Fire and Rescue Authority

Chief Fire Officer

6 June 2018